

# Maintain Hay Quality

For the best returns from your hay crop, cut it at the right stage of maturity, advises Max Smith, county agricultural agent.

What does it matter if the farmer is busy and can't get around to cutting his hay for a couple of weeks after Smith advises it should be cut (see story explanation on page 1)? Doesn't the crop keep on growing? What does it matter?

The answer is that careful study and research by many sources has shown that if the crop is allowed to stand in the field after it should have been cut it begins to lose its feed value. In the older crop, nutrients that produce weight gains on livestock or milk in cows simply are replaced by fibers that fill an animal but don't do the animal or the farmer any good.

According to "Silage and Silos" special circular 80 distributed by Penn State University, the legume crop that has 70 per cent total digestible nutrients (TDN) with 19 per cent protein when harvested in the "vegetative" stage on May 15 will drop to 33 per cent TDN and 15 per cent protein in the bud stage on May 30; it will continue to drop to the 56 per cent TDN level and 10 per cent protein level on June 15 in the bloom stage and to 49 per cent TDN and 7 per cent protein level on June 30 in the "mature" stage.

While this schedule shows that the farmer might delay his harvesting a few

days with only minor feed value loss, it also clearly shows that he dare not delay it without risk of substantial feed value loss. The difference between the feed value of the plants on May 15 and June 30 is nearly one third loss of TDN and almost two thirds loss of protein.

It is also clear that even minor losses of feed value when figured over many acres of ground, several crops per year and over a period of years can total up to huge amounts.

Another fact should also be kept in mind. A second crop can't be started until after the first one is cut.

It would appear that the farmer who attempts to cut his crop on time and work in an extra cutting or two is going to be the farmer who ends up with the most hay, and also the best hay.

Many Lancaster County farmers don't need to be reminded of these points. With only 85,800 acres in hay in 1969, the county produced 243,100 tons of hay to lead the state in hay production. Bradford County, which had far more hay acreage, produced only 200,500 tons of hay on 110,400 acres of land.

So many local farmers don't need to be told how to produce hay; still it's important to keep quality in mind, as well as quantity. It's the high quality of hay which will keep the area ahead in other phases of farming, too.



**NOW IS THE TIME . . .**

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Mow Weeds

Every property owner has the responsibility of controlling the weeds. This includes contractors, real estate men, and apartment owners who are often very slow in keeping the weeds under control. Many townships and boroughs have weed ordinances regarding weed control. We urge officials to enforce the regulations and all property owners to mow or spray weeds several times during the growing season. Farmers should clip pastures to control weeds and encourage new growth of the forage crops.

### To Cut At Proper Stage

Many grass-legume forage crops will be cut for hay or silage in the next few weeks. One of the most important factors in getting top quality feed is to cut the crop at the peak of feeding value based upon stage of ma-

turity. Some producers allow the crop to get too ripe before cutting. All grasses should be cut at heading time. This includes timothy, orchard, brome, and reed canary grasses. Alfalfa should be cut in the bud stage for the first cutting and then about every 35 days during the remainder of the season. First-year alfalfa should be permitted into the 10-20 per cent bloom stage before cutting the first crop. Red clover is best in the bud to early blossom stage. Barley or wheat for silage is best when cut in the blossom to early milk stage.

### To Be Careful with Sprays

The weed spraying season is at hand and many herbicides will be used to prevent weed growth. All growers and property owners are urged to thoroughly study (Continued on Page 10)

# It's Dairy Princess Time

Contestants for the 1970 Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant are now being sought.

Young ladies in the county who have completed their junior year in high school and are under 21 years of age should seriously consider entering the competition by contacting Mrs. Robert Gregory, Box 248, Lititz RD1 17543.

Unfortunately, the contest was canceled last year due to lack of contestants. This should not be allowed to happen again this year.

Dairying is by far Lancaster County's largest farm income producer and brought more than \$37 million to dairymen in 1969. That was about 30 per cent of the total of \$123,650,000 of county farm income in 1969.

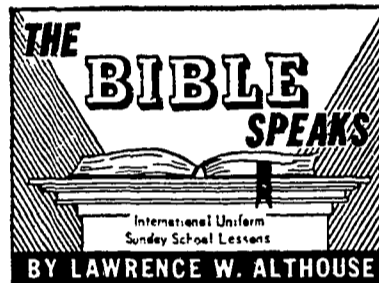
The Dairy Princess Contest is one way for the local farm community to advertise its most important farm product. In today's highly competitive world it is vitally important that farmers keep the general public alert to their existence and their needs.

Any appeal to young women to enter the contest, however, should not be based on milk industry needs. It should be based on the young woman herself and what the contest can do for her.

Not only does the contest offer the opportunity for many material rewards, more importantly it offers young women experience which money can't buy — an opportunity to meet people and to develop their own personalities and character. In this regard alone, we think every contestant will be a winner.

The ability to appear in public with confidence is to be highly prized. And the young woman who assures herself she couldn't possibly face it is the one who most needs to enter the contest. She might surprise herself and win. And if she doesn't win, what has she lost?

To repeat, all those who enter will be winners, particularly if they accept the competition as a personal challenge to learn and improve themselves.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE  
**VESTED INTERESTS**  
Lesson for May 24, 1970

Background Scripture: Acts 17:16-33; 19:23-41; 1 Peter 3:13-17.  
Devotional Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10.

The Chamber of Commerce of Ephesus swung into action to combat the growing subversive movement known as "Christianity." In an attempt to alert the people of Ephesus, a flyer was distributed to the general public.



This is what I said:  
**Citizens of Greater Ephesus!**  
*Wake up! Wake up! A little band of subversive atheists is plotting to bring the downfall of our glorious religion of Artemis.*  
This group, called "Christians" and led by a man of Tarsus named Paul (alias Saul), has already caused much falling away from the faith throughout the province of Asia. He has slandered our goddess Artemis and our idols, saying, "Gods made with hands are not gods." He attacks not only our religion but our city of Ephesus, the home of the temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the world, and center for the manufacture of Artemis statues. What will happen to the worship of Artemis throughout the world if it is learned that the people of her own city are forsaking her? Who will want to come and see our glorious temple if this subversive group is allowed to grow? Let us crush this movement now! It is the religious and patriotic duty of every citizen of Ephesus to join in this great struggle to defend all that we hold dear!  
In the public interest,  
Your Chamber of Commerce

### Bad for business?

A second communication was sent to all the businessmen of Ephesus. Added to what had already been said to the general public was news of the alarming drop in sales of silver statues, and a warning that this was a threat, not only to the silversmiths, but to all: "The banks, the hotels, the markets, the

wineries, the sacred prostitutes . . . all will suffer! Merchants, face up to this threat and join us in stamping out this menace to our livelihood!"

Well, of course, no such communications were ever distributed because Chambers of Commerce did not exist in those days. Yet we can be sure that the merchants of Ephesus reacted in a way not unlike that described above. There was no doubt about it: Christianity was bad for business when that business was based upon the pagan practices of the people.

The clash may not have been inevitable. The merchants of Ephesus were quite unconcerned with the theology of the Christian faith until Paul pronounced that Jesus Christ makes all idols worthless. If Paul had avoided this issue of little silver idols, he probably could have continued his work undisturbed.

### Profitable exploitation

Yet, though Paul did not seek conflict with local interests, neither did he shrink from proclaiming and teaching the truth regardless of whom it offended. The gospel of Jesus Christ could not help but come into conflict with certain vested interests. It refuses to condone human exploitation regardless of how profitable.

This is no less true today. Christianity is still constantly in conflict with the vested interests of many communities and groups. It does not seek to offend, but it cannot help but offend unless Christians suppress its radical teachings. The values of the gospel are often radically different from those of society. Not only are they different, but they judge the values of society as being false.

For example, what would be the reaction if the churches of Las Vegas were to mount a campaign to tell the truth about gambling? Can you imagine how the gambling interests of the town might react? The same could be said of many other cities and towns. There are vested interests wherever people are.

What about the vested interests where you live? Is Christianity "bad for business" with them?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service)

**ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY**

# Locusts--Fascinating Creatures

Brood X (10) of the 17-year locust is scheduled to be out in force this year.

Local officials assure us it's nothing to get excited about in terms of damage to crops or animals or humans — except some possible damage to orchards near forests or some slight damage to the trees themselves when the locusts lay eggs. But overall, any damage is expected to be extremely limited.

The locusts don't seem to eat much in anything in the four to six weeks they're out of the ground in the adult form. They don't bite or sting, officials assure us. Overall, they appear to be quite harmless.

But fascinating, nevertheless, because their music is quite interesting and soaring and their appearance is so rare. Here's an insect which spends 17 years traveling through babyhood in order to spend a few weeks as a harmless adult — singing and reproducing.

The locusts may come and go with many or most farmers in this area hardly knowing it. We're assured that's because they generally are prevalent in wooded areas, particularly in oak forests.

But those of us who have the opportunity will want to satisfy our curiosity by taking a close look at this strange and unusual insect. We can expect him to begin appearing at any time now, and his music should fill the air in June wherever he decides to appear.

We suggest the locust is a creature that will delight the heart of any farm boy — or girl, too.

**LANCASTER FARMING**  
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly  
P O Box 266 - Lititz Pa 17543  
Office 22 E Main St Lititz, Pa 17543  
Phone Lancaster 394 3047 or Lititz 626 2191  
Robert G Campbell Advertising Director  
Zane Wilson Managing Editor  
Subscription price \$2 per year in Lancaster County \$3 elsewhere  
Established November 4 1955  
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming Lititz Pa  
Second Class Postage paid at Lititz Pa 17543  
Member of Newspaper Fair Editors Assn Pa Newspaper Publishers Association and National Newspaper Association